expenditure, the proportion of GDP. That is at 2.7 in the B.E. for the next year. Fiscal deficit is a proportion of the total income minus total expenditure. It is a negative figure and that is a proportion of GDP that has been fixed at 4.4. These are the two figures that we have always used and all Budget documents contain only these two figures, that is, fiscal deficit and revenue deficit.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Your non-Plan expenditure is Rs. 3,70,000 crores and your Plan expenditure is Rs. 1,43,000 crores, and you used a word 'pause-button'. When I see, what efforts are being taken to contain this non-Plan expenditure, more particularly when you cannot contain subsidy, defence, salarly, interests, etc, the balance is only Rs. 17,000 crores.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Actually, the non-Plan expenditure in B.E. 2005-06 shows a very small increase, which is roughly a little over 2 per cent. In fact, it is one of the smallest increases in the non-Plan expenditure. The non-Plan expenditure can be contained only if we right-size Government, when we eliminate all wasteful expenditure and when we observe strict austerity, and each one of these is so difficult that we must sympathise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is Over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTION

Pilot project for lignite gasification

*289. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:'

(a) whether GAIL India with a foreign collaborator propose to implement a pilot project for lignite gasification in Barmer district of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the quantum of gas that would be produced annually; and

(c) by when the work on the project is likely to start, the investment required for the project and how the gas would be utilized;

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) GAIL India Limited has signed a Memorandum

of Understanding with Ergo Energy Technologies Inc., Canada for the technology for setting up a Pilot Project for an *in-situ* Lignite Gasification Plan in Barmer District in Rajasthan. The project proposal is at a preliminary stage.

Differential in prices of petroleum products in States

*290. DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:'

(a) what are the reasons that the prices of petroleum products vary in different States and they are the highest in Gujarat; and

(b) the reasons for different oil companies selling at different prices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Retail Selling Prices (RSP) of petrol and diesel vary from location to location due to difference in freight, sales tax, local taxes, octroi, other local levies and State specific irrecoverable levies. A comparison of RSP of petrol and diesel in Ahmedabad with the four metros is at Statement (*see* below).

At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies sell petrol and diesel at the same price at any particular location. However, private sector companies authorized to market these fuels are free to price them on the basis of their commercial considerations.

Statement

The Retail Selling Prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG as on 15th March, 2005 at four metros and Ahmedabad

Name of City	Petrol (Rs./litre)	Diesel (Rs./litre)	LPG (Dom)- (Rs./14.2 kg cylinder)
Mumbai	43.23	32.83	291.85
Delhi	37.84	26.28	281.60
Channai	41.25	29.30	288.15
Kolkata	40.89	28.72	309.65
Ahmedabad	41.11	29.75	315.40